

Finance has already announced a \$100-million employment credit proposal, details of which are being worked out, but which will undoubtedly pick up the best features of JET and apply them on a vastly greater scale. Young people could be major beneficiaries of such a program.

This private sector involvement with youth programs, furthermore, has recently been taken one step further. Last week I had the first meeting of our new National Youth Advisory Group which is composed of members from key sectors of the community — youth, labour, commerce, industry and education. Its role is to provide me with advice about what we can best do to reduce the serious employment problems that young people face in our country. One step which we intend to take, and which I hope to announce soon, will be the pulling together of the various federal youth employment programs under one umbrella with strong co-ordination. Many provinces have also been extremely active in this field and I hope you will continue your efforts. I would hope, however, that we can better co-ordinate our respective initiatives in the future. I will shortly be writing to you on this score, and I hope that our officials can get together to ensure smooth collaboration and a real partnership to help our young people.

Computer aid

One of the Commission's most recent and interesting innovations is a new computerized occupational exploratory system, aptly named CHOICES, with which many of you are already familiar. Utilizing computer terminals to explore occupational choices, it will enable people to tell a computer what characteristics they have — interests, aptitudes, educations, physical attributes, etc., and what they expect from a job by way of salary, future outlook or working conditions. In return, the computer will provide a list of occupations, if any, that meet these criteria. I am pleased to note the provincial interest in this system; it is currently being field-tested in several high schools and universities as well as a number of Canada Employment Centres.

The Employment and Immigration Commission has provided and will continue to provide school guidance counsellors with the extensive materials it has prepared for use in vocational counselling and placement, recognizing of



Community colleges offer a wide variety of courses to prepare students for the work force. Shown above, a student radio announcer at Ottawa's Algonquin College.

course that it is a clear provincial responsibility to provide counselling in the schools....

Apprenticeship

Turning to apprenticeship, I note that the average age of Canadian apprentices is 23 years — by which age young people in many European countries are established journeymen. Our studies have shown, furthermore, that these same countries are a major source of skilled tradesmen for Canada, inhibiting the development of domestic Canadian apprenticeship programs and often relegating them to the role of a secondary supply channel. In the face of the highest unemployment rates in the postwar period, can this situation be allowed to persist?

I see an expanded Canadian apprenticeship system as a key element in reorienting labour supply channels to more closely reflect labour market requirements. Only if we increase our output of skilled domestically-trained journeymen can we hope to reduce our reliance on imported skills and provide more Canadians with productive and remunerative careers in the high-level skills.

Foreign students and academics

The Immigration Legislation and Regulations, as they apply to foreign students, are an excellent example of how federal-provincial collaboration can produce a mutually useful result. Following extensive discussions with the provinces, the Commission will require that students, with some exceptions, will have to obtain "student authorizations" before coming

to Canada. Once in Canada, they will not be able to change faculty or institution without the formal approval of an immigration officer. We hope that this will terminate the current practice of foreign students "shopping around" among Canadian institutions while they are in Canada, or transferring out of the institution in which they were originally enrolled. Not only will these new immigration regulations allow a tighter immigration control, they will also allow provincial education authorities to plan enrolments more effectively. Some provinces might want to suggest that no students, whether they be destined to public or private institutions, be admitted to their province without their express approval. I would be quite prepared to include such a provision in any immigration agreement with any province.

As regards teachers, we are still awaiting the full results of our policy introduced last year requiring post-secondary institutions to advertize among Canadians before hiring abroad. The advertizing is occurring, but we do not yet have sufficient evidence to indicate whether more Canadians are being hired. For your information, during the first nine months of 1977, some 364 foreign teachers were admitted to Canada as immigrants and a further 1,876 were admitted on a temporary basis. I am also circulating a table containing data by province. Obviously, we need to keep a close watch on this situation and I would welcome any suggestions or steps by provinces should our present policy prove inadequate to meet our objectives.
